

REMARKS

The following remarks are responsive to the Office Action of February 5, 2007.

In the February 5, 2007 Office Action, claims 1, 5-6, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,764,800 to Yamagata. Claims 2-4, 7-8 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Yamagata.

Rejections under § 102(b) and § 103 based on Yamagata

Independent claim 1 was rejected as anticipated by and obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,764,800 (Yamagata). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. In response, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the invention. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that based on the number of images the user wants to take, the digital camera automatically calculates how many and which existing images to recompress and the corresponding recompression rates to accommodate the user. (Present Application, FIG. 6 and Page 8, Lines 24-29). In clear contrast, Yamagata recompresses only preselected images by exactly “one step,” i.e., the next highest predetermined recompression ratio. (Yamagata, Column 5, Lines 60—Column 6, Line 7) Because Yamagata recompresses only preselected images by a predetermined recompression ratio, the amount of space freed up by Yamagata may or may not satisfy the user’s need for space to store a certain number of additional images. In Yamagata, if enough space is not freed up, the user must select more images to be recompressed and run the recompression routine again. On the other hand, if too much space is freed up by Yamagata, the user loses quality in certain images due to unnecessary recompression. Thus, the Yamagata design is representative of the complicated, time-consuming and cumbersome prior art designs and disadvantages of which the present invention overcomes. In particular, efficiency and ease of use as provided by claim 1 of the present invention is a key factor in today’s digital camera market, where due to the numerous functions in digital cameras, making them efficient and easy-to-use is more difficult for designers, and more important for users. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-13 that depend from claim 1 are allowable for the same reasons.

New Claims

In re Appln. of Ohmori
Application No. 10/736,401
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Applicant submits that new claims 14-20 are fully supported by the as-filed specification (See, for example, Present Application, FIGS. 5 and 6, Page 7, Line 28—Page 8, Line 10 and Page 8, Lines 24-29) and introduce no new matter. To this end, Applicant respectfully requests entry and examination of new claims 14-20.

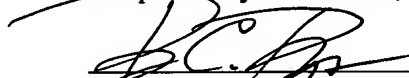
Claim 14 depends from claim 1 and is therefore allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Independent claim 15 is also allowable for the same reasons as independent claim 1. As in claim 1, in claim 15, based on the number of images the user wants to take, the digital camera automatically calculates how many and which existing images to recompress and the corresponding recompression rates to accommodate the user. Since these elements are not disclosed, suggested or taught by Yamagata, claim 15 is allowable over Yamagata. Claims 16-20 that depend from claim 15 are allowable for the same reasons.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, all pending claims in the present application are believed to be allowable. Thus, the application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF FEBRUARY 5, 2007 (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: April 25, 2007



Irina L. Mikitiouk

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